

THE CENTER HARBOR LIGHT



Volume 47 No. 5

Special offering this month: *New Beginnings*

May 2025



**Center Harbor
Congregational Church**
United Church of Christ
An Open and Affirming Congregation

PO Box 229, 52 Main Street
Center Harbor, NH 03226
Tel: (603) 253-7698
Tel/Fax: (603) 253-8668

Office Hours:

Tues./Thurs. 8:30 - 11:30 am
Wed. 8:30 am - 2:30 pm
Website: www.chccucc.org

S The Rev. Dr. Cathryn Turrentine
Cathryn.turrentine999@gmail.com

t Nancy Stamnas, Music Director

a Louisa Cartier, Office Secretary
E-mail: CHCCsecretary@chccucc.org

f Laura Curran, Preschool Director
603-455-1067

f All Members: Ministers

Deacon:
Ann Koniszewski
603-253-8270

Property Team
Jeff Koniszewski
603-521-4473

Saying Goodbye

We are coming to a time of parting. In just one month, I will retire. I am 75 years old now; it is time. I don't regret my decision at all, but my feelings about retirement are all over the place. I yearn for a good long nap, and I am also eager to spend my afternoons in my flower bed. I am filled with hope for the future, and I am also grieving the losses that come with any retirement. I know that some of you feel the same way about this passage. So, I want to share with you some thoughts about what it means for us to say good-bye, and to do that well. Each of these carries responsibilities for both you and me.

First, we have one month left to honor this passage. If you feel like celebrating together this month, then let's have a party. Invite me to lunch or to dinner and we will have a grand time. If you have thoughts or feelings that you want to share about our time together, please ask for an appointment so that we can sit down together. I will do my best to make time for whatever you need to do to mark this passage. Your part in this is to remember and share with me whatever is on your heart. We could do this singly or in small groups – whatever you need. My part is to devote my last month in this ministry to honoring this passage with you.

Second, whoever follows me will need space to be themselves – pastorally, theologically, as a leader, and as a whole person. I need to create that space for the next pastor, so I really must go away. Dave and I will find a new church to join. We will no longer be members here, and I will no longer attend services or activities of the church. If I would ever like to return – say, to shop at the Holly Fair – I will call the new pastor and ask how they feel about it. I won't come unless I am invited, and I won't have hard feelings if they say "no" or "not yet." You have a part in creating space for the new pastor to flourish, too. Please welcome them with an open heart and an open mind. Follow where they lead. They will do things differently than I do, and that is a good thing. And please, never, ever say, "That's not the way Cathy did it."

Third, Dave and I are not leaving town, and this is a small community. I really will try to keep my distance, but we will continue to shop in the same shops, and I will likely volunteer some of my time locally. Inevitably, we will encounter one another, and I will be SO glad to see you! When that happens, I will ask about your knee surgery and your grandchildren, but I will not discuss church business with you. I need to be careful not to encroach on the next pastor's leadership even through conversations out in the community. Your part in this is to ask me how my new granddaughter is growing up and to tell me about all the vegetables you are harvesting. (I will be happy to take extra tomatoes and cucumbers off your hands.)

Finally, these ethical restrictions apply to me, but not to Dave. He will move his church membership with me, and he shouldn't be messing in church business after I retire, either. But if you have been his friend

Continued on Page 2

Continued from Page 1

for years and you still want to go to lunch with him, I have been assured by Conference Minister Gordon Rankin that that's just fine. In fact, we would welcome those sorts of invitations, because it isn't fair for my retirement to require him to be socially isolated. So, give him a call.

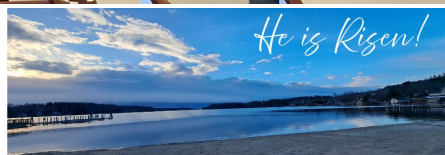
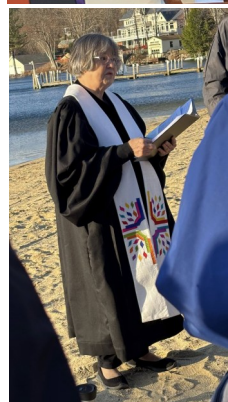
A healthy ending is just as important to a ministry as a good beginning. I will do my best to make it so. And then I will pray for God's richest blessings for each of you and for this church as we move into the future.

Pastor Cathy

Church Life

Easter in Center Harbor

Easter week was a true celebration of Christ's sacrifice at Center Harbor Congregational beginning with the children's procession on Palm Sunday, continuing with the achingly beautiful Maundy Thursday Service, and ending with two well-attended Sunday services.



Pot luck supper at the Doschers

On Friday, May 16th, 5:00 Fred and Margee Doscher will welcome folks to their home for a potluck meal, followed by some singing around the piano and a little bit of story-telling.

Look for a sign up sheet in Gilpatric Hall.

Bowling Party

In April, CHCC members hit the lanes! The Gulezians organized a bowling party at Funspot that was a strike!



More Regular Social Events

Following up on interest in social events that came up at the retreat, the Cabinet is inviting folks to plan social events. But the Cabinet isn't doing the events! They can be done by anyone who would like to invite folks to join them in an activity. So in March we had a game night set up by the Koniszewkis; in April we had a bowling night organized by the Gulezians, and this month we will have a covered dish supper at the Doschers (see separate invitation).

Louisa will coordinate events in the office. So if you'd like to plan something, check with Louisa for scheduling, put the idea in the newsletter and weekly notes, set up a sign up sheet for coffee hour to tell people what to do or what to bring and enjoy, and by all means, bring a friend!

Ideas? Dinners for 5-7 were sometimes done during the summer with the host providing the main course with others bringing other items; or you could do a sledding time in season, volleyball at the church, invite a group for a walk (2 winters we met at one of Meredith's paths in the woods and went for a walk!) A few years ago we had an artist who came and helped us create a painting.

What great opportunities to come together and enjoy friends! If you have questions, you can call Fred (609-306-7816) or Louisa in the office

Notes from the April Cabinet Meeting

Actions taken at our Tuesday, 4/15 Meeting:

- 1) Approved minutes of Cabinet meeting of March 18;
- 2) Approved the Treasurer's Report with thanks;
- 3) Decided to plan for the group "Cooking Matters" to use the church again (details to follow);
- 4) Approved plan to start the use of Hannaford gift cards (details in separate newsletter article);
- 5) Received an update on arranging for a Transitional Pastor;
- 6) Recommended a person to assist the property group in reviewing old records for disposal;
- 7) Concurred with a plan to establish a long range planning committee to look ahead five years.

The next meeting of the Cabinet will be May 13th at 7 PM in the parlor.

Holly Fair Prep Updates

Holly fair crafters have been busy. In March, the group made Christmas cards, and in April it was pasta ornaments. Please join us for other crafting sessions! All are welcome!



Holly Fair Dates to Remember:

All sessions are 10 am in Gilpatric Hall
 May 2—Decorating Wreaths
 May 16—Brainstorming Gift Basket Ideas
 June 6—Wood Craft (TBD)

Campaign for New Tables

In response to several requests for strong, yet lightweight, tables, the Cabinet has approved a campaign to replace our heavy and aging 8-foot tables. The tables are used for a variety of church activities, including dinners, presentations, receptions, memorial service collations, the July Craft Fair, and the November Holly Fair.

The first order of tables will be arriving at the end of April. To get the best price, the tables are being purchased in groups of four—\$170 per table. Sold by the company Lifetime, "the 8-Foot Commercial Folding Tables are constructed of high-density polyethylene and are stronger, lighter, and more durable than wood. They will not crack, chip, or peel, and are built for indoor and outdoor use. The patented steel frame design provides a sturdy foundation and is protected with a powder-coated weather-resistant finish. Built for the rigors of demanding commercial use, Lifetime Folding Tables exceed challenging BIFMA standards and are perfect for your next banquet, event, or group gathering."

If you would like to donate toward the purchase of new tables, please make your check payable to CHCC and write "TABLE" in the memo line. Any amount will help us get closer to the goal of replacing twelve tables. Thank you!

Preschool News

Our preschool students have been enjoying the outdoors this spring. They are especially grateful to the property management team and congregation for repairing the carillon. Every afternoon the preschoolers run over to listen to the bells chime.



News from the Board of Missions

April Mission of the Month—New Beginnings



The Mission Board switched the months for Backpacks and New Beginnings due to missed winter Sundays. If this announcement looks familiar, you read your April CHCC newsletter well. Thanks!

New Beginnings—Without Violence & Abuse is dedicated to ending sexual, domestic, and stalking violence through the provision of safe and effective services, including emergency refuge and support; and works toward social change by promoting an effective community response to violence. Based in Laconia, New Beginnings serves all of Belknap County.

Your contribution supports these many services (all of which are free and confidential):

- | | |
|-------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| -24-Hour Domestic Violence Line: 1.866.644.3574 | -24-Hour Sexual Assault Line: 1.800.277.5570, |
| -24-Hour Crisis Line | -24-Hour Accompaniment |
| -Emergency Assistance | -Court Advocacy |
| -Educational & Outreach Programs | -1 to 1 Peer Support |
| | -Various Support Groups. |

On Sunday, May 4th, Shauna Foster, Executive Director of New Beginnings in Laconia will be our guest at worship to tell us more about this vital mission. Please make a special effort to be present to hear her and to ask questions.

Especially in this Easter season, we are aware that Mary Magdalene found a brand-new beginning in Jesus Christ. For all the present-day Mary Magdalenes, please support this important service (with the hope that we can educate ourselves to completely eliminate the need for this type of program in our community and world).

2025 Contributions to Missions (as of May 1)

Backpacks	\$350
Christmas Fund Veterans of Cross	\$427
Interlakes Community Caregivers	\$30
Habitat for Humanity	\$30
Horton Center	\$30
Hunger Action	\$205
Ministry of Space	\$30
Neighbors in Need	\$30
New Beginnings	\$30
OCWM	\$969
OGHS	\$539
Strengthen the Church	\$30
Deacon's Fund	\$225
Total	\$2,925

Little Free PANTRY DONATIONS

Items that we are in need of:

- Cereal (sweetened cereals are especially popular)
- Soups and stews with pull-top lids
- PB and Jelly
- Bread
- Nuts/crackers/bars
- Lunch on the Run or Snack boxes
- Rice and Pasta mixes
- Toiletries such as toothpaste and toothbrushes, toilet paper, feminine products, diapers, and wipes



Collection of Soft Plastics is Resumed

All soft plastic **MUST** be cleaned of food, dried, and stick-on labels cut out. Soft plastics include items such as: plastic bags, frozen food bags, plastic wrappings, bubble wrap (popped!), clean mulch/dirt bags, plastic nut bags, etc. All those plastics will stay out of our landfills and will find their way to a better use.

Soft plastic will be brought to the UU Church in Laconia at a monthly collection. They are then shipped elsewhere and repurposed into composite Trex decks and furniture.

Save the Date!
SATURDAY • JUNE 7TH • 2PM

Join Tre Voce for
A DAY IN THE GARDEN
Featuring music about flowers & nature

Come Tiptoe Through the Tulips With Us!



Books 'n Bites

Did you just finish an amazing book and need to tell someone about it? Have you been reading a bunch of duds and need a recommendation?



Come and share what you've been reading!

Tuesday, May 20th at 1:30 pm

Contact Jill Morton (ladymort17@gmail.com) or

Diane Crawford (onie54@gmail.com)

Property Corner

At our February church retreat the idea came up to provide access to preventative maintenance knowledge (i.e. contact list of plumbers, electricians, how to run heat, etc.) for all members so as to avoid having lapses in property upkeep. The property group is still managing all property maintenance, but as people may cycle on and off this task force, it is a good idea for us as an organization to spread the institutional knowledge around. In the next several months, this column in the newsletter will do just that. Each month a category of property maintenance will be covered to give all of us an idea of what tasks are happening and are necessary for the upkeep of our building and grounds.

For our first topic, let's consider where to find important property information. Already in existence is the contact list of service people that is posted on the office bulletin board. In addition to the already existing contact list, Jeff has been in the process of learning about our building and collecting information on tasks and processes. This information is being compiled in a list on the office computer. By the end of the year, this should be mostly complete, with an index of the types of information on file. The end goal is for the secretary to send a monthly list of upcoming property tasks to whoever is leading the property group, which will give us consistency in our maintenance procedures.

An Easter Present

This spring we were able to have some work done in the long garden area next to the parking lot. The outcome needs to be seen to be believed! Cook Country Property Management (CCPM), who was engaged to clear winter dirt from the parking lot this year, volunteered to do the garden as well. After talking with Laura Curran about the plantings, Jill Morton and Jeff Koniszewski did a walk-through to mark emerging flowers and tag plants we wanted cut down as well as identified invasive plants for removal. Then CCPM got to work and did an amazing job! It looks a little sparse right now but soon other things will be coming up and we can add more as the year progresses.

CCPM is located in Center Harbor and said they were happy to contribute to helping the town look good.





05/08 Pam Hulkow
 05/18 Louisa Cartier
 05/22 Jeff Koniszewski
 05/29 Dave Ostroth
 05/31 Emma O'Hearn

OUR CHURCH HAS OVER 100

Facebook followers from our
community and around the world!

LIKE us! Watch for our daily posts of
our church family doing God's work!

www.facebook.com/CenterHarborCongregationalChurch

Need assistance opening or
managing your account?
Reach out to Cindy Thompson
ccthompson1978@gmail.com

Are you a Hannaford Shopper? You can help earn cash for the church!

The Invite

Hannaford is offering a
program for churches to
earn money. How? All we
do is sell \$100 gift cards
to our members and we
earn 5% of each card
sold! It's EASY!

The Plan

We purchase a minimum
of 10 cards at \$100 each
(\$1000). Hannaford
donates \$50 to us. We sell
the \$100 gift cards at
Fellowship Hour. Cash or
check accepted!

Coming
in May

The Benefit

Our church can make easy
money all year round!
You can still earn and spend
your rewards! If you spend \$50
one week, the credit remains
on the card for future use.
They NEVER expire!

The Need

We need 3 or 4 others to
work a Sunday Fellowship
Hour each month to sell
gift cards. We will have it
all spelled out for you on
how to proceed. It's EASY!

The Possibility

If you spend \$200 each week at Hannaford, the church
earns \$10. That's \$520 per year! Now multiply that by 10
families, that's \$5200 a year! That's like having a second
Holly Fair! Wow! Now imagine more families joining in!
Interested in helping to make this happen?

Please contact Cindy T., Janet G., Carol A., or Fred

Opportunities In Our Community

NH Conference Strategy Session

The ONA Concerns Mission Group is inviting you and any church members who may be interested to join with them in a gathering to discuss the escalating attacks on the LGBTQ+ community, especially our transgender siblings. We will host a morning for strategy at the Conference Center in Pembroke on Saturday, May 10 from 9 am until noon. Conference minister Gordon Rankin will lead our discussion and we will have poetry readings by award-winning poet, James Crews. Please join us and work with us to develop strategies to provide support for our trans siblings, our gay, lesbian, bisexual, queer, nonbinary family members. Only together can we protect ourselves from the unjust forces at work in our country.

To register for this event, see the church secretary.

Love Our Earth Day

Saturday, May 10th,
10 AM—1 PM
18 Veterans Square,
Laconia

Celebrating the
Lakes Region
Environment



Need an Extra Set of Hands for Odd Jobs? Call Mr. Do It!

Hello my name is Kody St. Clair (aka MR. DO IT)

I am a **helping hands assistant** living in Center Harbor and available to support a person or business on many levels. I have a valid New Hampshire driver's license and I am very reliable.

Do you need help with...senior citizen support, such as moving heavy items and shopping; basic spring/fall yard cleanup, garden preparation, and mowing; small trash removal for Center Harbor and Meredith areas or seasonal cottage rental trash pickup; moving; chicken sitting/feeding? Mr. Do It...CAN do it!

I'm available **Thurs. through Mon. 8:30 am to 2:30 pm**. If interested, please email or call/text.

kodystclair30@gmail.com or (650) 400-9318

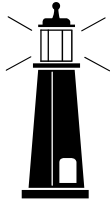
Center Harbor Congregational Church, UCC

May 2025

This month's mission: New Beginnings

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Questions? Call the secretary during Office/Sanctuary Hours: Tues. & Thurs., 8:30 - 11:30 am Wed., 8:30 am - 2:30 pm or leave a message: (603) 253-7698 or 253-8668 E-mail: CHCCsecretary@chccucc.org			Boldface = Church-sponsored events	1 9:00 am Bible Study, Zoom	2 10 am Holly Fair Crafting, Gilpatric 8:00 pm AA	3
4 10:00 am Worship (no Sunday School) 11:00 am Handbells Rehearsal	5	6 4:30 pm Soup Kitchen	7 5:00 PM Missions, Zoom	8 9:00 am Bible Study, Zoom 5:30 pm Humble Grunt Work	9 8:00 pm AA	10 8
11 10:00 am Worship Baptism Sunday 11:00 am Handbells Rehearsal	12 5 pm Deacons Meeting	13 4:30 pm Soup Kitchen 7:00 pm Cabinet, Parlor	14	15 9:00 am Bible Study, Zoom	16 10 am Holly Fair Crafting, Gilpatric 8:00 pm AA	17
18 10:00 am Worship (Last Day of Sunday School) 11:00 am Handbells Rehearsal	19	20 1:30 pm Books & Bites, Parlor 4:30 pm Soup Kitchen	21	22 9:00 am Bible Study, Cathy's House	23 8:00 pm AA	24
25 10:00 am Worship 11:00 am Handbells Rehearsal	26	27 4:30 pm Soup Kitchen	28	29	30 8:00 pm AA	31

THE
CENTER HAR-
BOR



May 2025

We are a church whose members love and value each other. Our faith community is a force for caring and sharing God's love in local and wider communities. As members, we learn, grow and serve together to do God's work with faith, compassion and respect.

All are Welcome

An Earth Song

By Langston Hughes (1901-1967)

It's an earth song,—

And I've been waiting long for an earth song.

It's a spring song,—

And I've been waiting long for a spring song.

Strong as the shoots of a new plant

Strong as the bursting of new buds

Strong as the coming of the first child from its mother's womb.

It's an earth song,

A body song,

A spring song,

I have been waiting long for this spring song.

This poem is in the public domain.